

Message Text

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65

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /069 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6457

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 2791

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR YO LY

SUBJ: MOSLEM NATIONALISM: LIBYAN CONSULATE IN SARAJEVO

1. USINFO CENTER SARAJEVO REPORTS THAT LIBYANS HAVE OPENED ONLY FOREIGN CONSULATE THERE. CONSUL IS 33 YEAR OLD TAHIR MUHAMED EL GARBI. HIS DEPUTY, HASAN UMRAM EL ABDELI, AND THREE OTHERS COMPRISE LIBYAN STAFF. OPENING RECEPTION WAS WELL ATTENDED, BUT PRESS HAS BEEN AS RESERVED TOWARD CONSULATE AS TOWARD USINFO CENTER.
2. IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER CONSULATE'S PURPOSE IS RELIGIOUS OR GOVERNMENTAL. SARAJEVO IS CENTER OF MOSLEM COMMUNITY AND SEAT OF INFLUENTIAL YUGOSLAV ISLAMIC ASSOCIATION, WHOSE LEADERS WERE PROMINENT AT CONSULATE OPENING.
3. USINFO CENTER ALSO REPORTS THAT MOSLEMS HAVE BEEN ALMOST UNTOUCHED BY CRACKDOWN ON NATIONALISTS AND OTHER "HOSTILE FORCES" IN BOSNIA AND HERCEGOVINA (B&H). SERBIAN AND CROATIAN NATIONALISTS HAVE BEEN JAILED, BUT MOSLEM NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS IS ALMOST ENCOURAGED. PUBLICATIONS EXPOUNDING ON THE MOSLEM NATIONALITY AND ITS POST-WAR GENESIS ABOUND.

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4. COMMENT: MOSLEM "NATION" IS CREATION COMMUNIST

ERA. IT BALANCES THE ETHNIC COMPOSITION OF B&H, PREVENTING
SERB OR CROAT DOMINANCE. INTERNATIONALLY, IT PROVIDES
ACCESS AND AN EMOTIONAL TIE TO THE MOSLEM WORLD, BUT ALSO
LIMITS GOY OPTIONS. B&H OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF THAT INTERNAL
MOSLEM LOBBY MODERATED GOY OPPOSITION TO TURKISH INVASION
OF CYPRUS. AND FEAR OF ARAB REACTION TO ANY CRACKDOWN
NO DOUBT HELPS PROTECT MOSLEM CHURCH. SILBERMAN

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